

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-39 are pending in this application. Claims 37 and 38 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 as being substantial duplicates of claims 17 and 19 respectively. Claims 1-39 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-15, 17, and 20-39 of U.S. Patent No. 6,714,927.

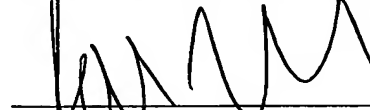
With respect to the objection to claims 37 and 38, the present response cancels claims 37 and 38. Therefore, this objection is believed to be moot.

With respect to the above-noted double patenting rejection, this rejection is obviated by the present response. More specifically, filed with the present response is a Terminal Disclaimer disclaiming the present application over U.S. Patent No. 6,714,927. The submission of that Terminal Disclaimer is believed to address the above-noted double patenting rejection.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

I:\ATTY\CBH\RICOH - 0557245475US\AMD.DOC